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Applicants: Shinya Adachi et al.

Serial No.: 10/075,164

Filed: February 14, 2002

Title: METHOD FOR TRANSMITTING LOCATION INFORMATION ON A DIGITAL MAP

Docket No.: 34408

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions that the above-identified application be made special under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) and MPEP § 708.02, VIII, Special Examining Procedure For Certain New Applications – Accelerated Examination. The application has not received any examination by an Examiner.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Aaron A. Fishman
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

August 21, 2002
Date

Signature of Attorney

08/29/2002 NMOHAMM1 00000028 10075164
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The following are submitted herewith:

a) A check for $130 to cover the petition fee (37 CFR §1.17(h));

b) A statement that a preexamination search was performed, a listing and discussion of the field of search, and a detailed discussion of the most relevant uncovered references pointing out how the claimed invention is patentable over those references; and

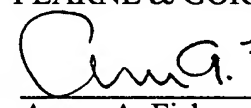
c) An Information Disclosure Statement, associated form PTO-1449, and references cited therein.

All the claims in the above-captioned patent application are drawn to a single invention.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication not covered by the enclosed check, or if the check was omitted, please charge all uncovered fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34408.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: 

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STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PREEXAMINATION SEARCH, AND DISCUSSION OF MOST RELEVANT UNCOVERED REFERENCES IN SUPPORT OF PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant hereby submits the following statement and discussion:

PREEXAMINATION SEARCH

A preexamination search was conducted, in compliance with MPEP 708.02, VIII. Special Examining Procedure For Certain New Applications – Accelerated Examination.

An initial search covered the following International Patent Classifications:

G 08 G - Traffic control systems (search inclusive of all subclasses),

G O9 B - Educational or demonstration appliances; appliances for teaching, or communicating with, the blind, deaf or mute; models; planetaria; globes; maps; diagrams

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(search inclusive of all subclasses), and

G 01 C - Measuring distances, levels, or bearings; surveying; navigation; gyroscopic instruments; photogrammetry (search inclusive of all subclasses).

This search area covered 12,004 publications.

Within this search area, the search was narrowed to publications containing various combinations of the following keywords in their abstracts: "road," "traffic," "map," "atlas," "transportation," "car," "vehicle," "position," "location," "reference," "route," "calculation," and "information." A search was also conducted within the above-mentioned search area being limited to publications in which "BOSCH" is listed as the patentee.

A list of the actual search sets is enclosed herewith as "Exhibit A". A total of 120 potentially relevant references were discovered in this search.

A further search was conducted covering the following International Patent Classifications:

G 08 G 001/0969 - Traffic control systems for road vehicles . Arrangements for giving variable traffic instructions (indicating arrangements for variable information by selection or combination of individual elements . . provided with indicators in which a mark progresses showing the time elapsed, e.g. of green phase . . . Systems involving transmission of navigation instructions to the vehicle . . . . having a display in the form of a map,

G 09 B 029/00 - Maps; Plans; Charts; Diagrams, e.g. route diagram,

G 09 B 029/10, - Map spot or co-ordinate position indicators; Map-reading aids, and

G 01 C 021/00 - Navigation; Navigational instruments not provided for in preceding groups.

This second search area covered 11,133 publications.

Within this second search area, the search was narrowed using various keywords and patentees. A detailed explanation of this search is enclosed herewith as "Exhibit B."

Prior to these searches, applicant was aware of additional references, which are cited in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS).

DISCUSSION OF MOST RELEVANT REFERENCE(S)

The party conducting the search has determined that the following uncovered references appear to be the most relevant to the subject invention: WO 00/08616 (hereinafter "'616") and US 6,324,468 (hereinafter "'468"). Thus, these references will be discussed with regard to patentability of the present claims. Each of these references is enclosed and cited in the IDS.

The present invention, as set forth in claim 1, is directed to a location information transmission method for reporting on-road location information on a digital map. The present invention is further directed to the steps of:

(1) an information provider reporting on-road location information including: (a) a string of coordinates representing a road shape having a length determined depending on difficulty of shape matching, (b) additional information including road attributes or node details, and (c) relative information indicating the on-road location; and

(2) a party receiving the on-road location information, performing shape matching to identify the road section on a digital map, and using the relative data to identify the on-road location.

The '616 publication discloses transmitting a several pairs of co-ordinates representing a traffic lane. However, '616 does not disclose including additional information such as road attributes or node details in order to assist in shape matching by a receiving party, as in the present invention set forth in claim 1. Since each of the limitations of the claim are not disclosed by the prior art, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the '616 publication.

The '468 patent discloses a central traffic station transmitting a route to a vehicle, the route consisting of a series of turning points, and the vehicle displaying the route on a

terminal unit in the vehicle. However, '468 does not disclose including additional information in the transmission, as in claim 1. Since each of the limitations of the claim are not disclosed by the prior art, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the '468 publication.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication not covered by the enclosed check, or if the check was omitted, please charge all uncovered fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34408.

Respectfully submitted,

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